UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/367
23 May 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 22 MAY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 21 May 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the violations committed by the U-2 aircraft.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

96-12926 (E) 240596 240596 250596

/...

Annex

Letter dated 21 May 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

We refer to our letters addressed to the President of the Security Council concerning the violation of Iraq's airspace by the United States U-2 spy plane on the pretext of conducting aerial surveys for the Special Commission, the most recent such letter being that of 19 March 1996 (S/1996/206).

We should like to inform you that this aircraft, which takes off from Saudi territory, has continued its invasions and penetrations of Iraq's airspace in violation of the country's sovereignty and security. As of the end of April 1996 it had made 296 overflights, for a total flight time of 1,336 hours and 50 minutes, since it began such operations in August 1991.

The facts that have come to light since the aircraft was first brought into use, which are set forth in our aforementioned letters, and the ill repute the aircraft has acquired from its past espionage activities in various parts of the world make it incumbent upon the United Nations to re-examine the question of the continued coercive use of the aircraft by the United States of America to violate Iraq's airspace in a manner totally incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as they relate to respect for the sovereignty of all Member States.

We condemn these unjustified violations of our airspace and demand a complete halt to these unlawful acts. Iraq reserves the right to seek redress for the material and other damage caused by this aircraft's violations of its airspace.

I take this opportunity to reiterate our request, as made in the 108 letters we have thus far addressed to the Secretary-General on this subject, that Iraqi aircraft should be used instead of foreign aircraft in the work of the Special Commission in order to exclude any possibility of such foreign aircraft being used for purposes prejudicial to Iraq's sovereignty and security.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq